

THE VIRASAIVA MOVEMENT

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conduct Is low caste. Good conduct is high caste. The real outcastes are not the people born In castes known as depressed but those whose lives are low and de- praved. He who kills is the *Madiga*; he who eats forbidden food is the *Holeya*. What is caste, and what is the caste of the men who take life in the name of God ? The servants of God Kudala Sangama, who wished good to all beings, were high-born men, the only real aristocracy, the aristocracy of character.

To God's servant all the days and hours are auspicious. The superstitions of astrology and horos- copy cannot dwell with a real faith in God. Say not good day, bad day and so on and so forth. To him who says * God is my refuge * all days are one. To the man who relies on God, all days are the same. To him who remembers God without remission, every day Is like every other day.

Basavanna longed for the relief that comes of true knowledge and devotion. When would the travail of *Samsara* cease? When would his mind be converted?

When, ah! when would that time of real bliss come? But he knew that knowledge and devotion come not from man's effort only but by God's grace. It is no use, he told himself, seeing the good and longing for it wistfully. Stretching the arm for the fruit of the palm and looking up only hurts the neck. Man

gets nothing till such time as it pleases
God to give.
But God must give. One might almost
say that not
to show grace would affect God's
prestige. Life was
a battle in which Basavanna fought on the
side of God*
If the servant was beaten, the disgrace
would be the
master's. He asked God therefore to
teach him and